Dear Paul: Hoch

Feb. 8, 1970

On the slides of the Z film, Fred Newcomb and Dave Lifton have already had this done from the superior copy of the film they have. If you are in touch with either one in the near future (I will be writing to Fred anyway) please bring this up and ask about availability of copies. They were promised me but I haven't heard a thing since.

Your letter of Jan.27, 1970 to Harold: agreed on Garrison but the problem is still the same--he came along, we didn't ask for him, and Saul and Lane continue to give him encouragement, and in Sahl's case, chime in. Being generally out of it out here, and getting most of what I knew on Jim from Vince Salandria, it took a long while before I was aware of most of the bad public stuff. Now,nothing surprises me. I encourage you to write such a letter, particularly to try to curb Sahl. I would bet my bottom dollar that whoever did this or helped in it or who has a stake in it is sending anonymous contributions to Jim to keep him going. Boxley is still a mystery as far as I am concerned, especially since Mary has continced me (along with some extended talks with Bill, with and without Mary present), that much of what he did he did to stay in well with Garrison, and the really wild stuff came from Jim. This would kind of place Boxley in a similar role to Mark and Mort who have done more damage than 10 agents. In Boxley's case, though, there are some psychiatric difficulties, or at least emotional ones, which seemed to have influenced his ability to go along with the rot Jim sent him out to do. Mary says that she wishes he were an agent, because if that were the case he would not be so screwed up emotionally. It's amazing how little of Garrison's ravings reached this area of the country as compared with either coast, and the West Coast in particular. The problem is that I have never really had the time to research Garrison and I generally have felt that any such investigation should be helped, with caution of course, just in case it can lead some where. Mary feels the same way and helped fight down to the end of things even though her extensive contacts with the office, and friendships with Boxley and Bethell, who lived in her home for a while, had long before convinced her that Garrison was very bad business.

Could you send CD86: 494-98. You mentioned those as pertaining to Crafard. Also, what do you have on the following: Cliff Carter, Dtectives FM Turner and B. L. Senkel, Jack Puterbaugh, Gen. McHugh. Coming under separate cover to you are the name files on FM Turner, General McHugh, Detective Senkel, and Cliff Carter. Please copy them, make them available to Harold, and return them to me when you are done with them.

I would greatly appreciate material on that O'Leary thing, New Zealand, etc . One of my roommates is an Australian and I am in a position to get some things in that part of the world checked out. Also, I can get things in Yugoslavia checked out by one of their top editors and journalists who is also a friend. One more requrest: Do you know any of the details of to which TV station showed the Z film in the Bay area, etc. Jerry Pollicof is trying to get a New York station to do the same and they are definitely interested, but everyone wants more feedback on the West Coast showing. I am writing to Fred Newcomb on this also.

On the draft, thanks for your concern. I was 25 in Dec. In order to get a medical deferrment I will have to take a physical, and I have been informed that I could pass it, even though I have no sight in one eye, because the other one can be corrected to 20-20, so I have been laying low. I was 1-A once before with no explanation ever having been given and passed it off as a mistake. This time I think it is a misunderstanding, but I get a bit worried everytime I have anything to do with them.

Sorry about not having enclosed the check. One is enclosed here which should cover things. That was a slip up on my part.

You should not know about the Nichols thing. I dislike such problems also, although I allowed myself to become embroiled in that business with Fred and Dave by stupidly taking Dave serious and dropping down to that level, something I probably shouldn't have done even given the fact that he was bringing so many other critics into it and spreading so many biased or dishonest stories about Harold, and finally me. I intend to stay out of the Nichols thing entirely although I am a bit apprehensive about what Nichols will write for LOOK, etc. now, since his present behavior suggests that he may well be on an ego trip.

Do you know of anyone who has researched the deaths of Forrestall or Joe McCarthy? Both interest me (I want to put one of my researchers on it who wouldn't be useful for much else sinee he knows little of the assassination factually) because they happened in Bethesda and because my experience with doctors, medicine, and hospitals gives great cause to distrust them. If you were to have worked inside hospitals as I have, you would be loath to enter one, even if quite sick. Sometimes, in fact not too infrequently, some sort of atrocity occurs nearby, and the psychologistsand social workers, who are usually the only-non-medical witnesses, spend many a lunch hour discussing it just to relieve the anxiety. The Forestall thing is the most interesting and relevent because of direct military connections, although McCarthy died just about the time he was really doing a job on the Army.

Do you have a copy of the letter from Wes Barthelmes to TMO. I can't find it in the TMO issues I have. I am missing a number of the important ones and have yet to find a way of getting them.

Two items from your letter of Feb. 3 to Harold: 1It will be some time before we do any more memos on Crafard, so if Harold wants to divert himself to look at that file, there is no use in waiting--things like Ahler and other memos related to my Dallas trip are more important 2. It might be worthwhile to put Mary on the social status of Mrs. Davisson, but I don't know how much you people have told Mary about this. Mary is very socially concious and has many and wide-ranging contacts, so she might be abbe to help.

The Crafard file, by the way, might be interesting to Harold and the rest of us far beyond the things relating to Crafard, Ahler, etc. It paints a much different picture of Griffin than I have ever had for one thing. It suggests the possibility that his "threat" to Sgt. Patrick Dean may have been overzealousness rather than whitewashing. It may also imply that he would be someone worth writing to or approaching. By the way, on the same general subject, has anyone written to Russell to reward him for his public statement. He is old, has lung cancer, and will be dead within a year or so. He would seem ripe for setting the record straight, and perhaps for supplying a copy of the Hoaxes file which they all have.

Enclosed is a copy of the Penthouse article in case you don't have it. I have sent copies to Harold and Mary also.

Well, I'd better close now. Take it easy.

Gary

PS: What do you hear from Don Olson. I will write him in a week or so, but haven't heard from him in a long time. I gather that graduate studies have taken their toll of his time. I can never believe how much you manage to do.